

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 TRSE-00 /064 W

----- 019440

R 190855Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3831

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0717

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC SF

SUBJ: PRE AND POST LICENSE CHECK-SWEARINGEN AVIATION

1. EMBOFF AND DATT OFFICER MET WITH MAJOR GENERAL COCKBAINE, CHIEF OF STAFF FOR LOGISTICS, SAAF, TO DISCUSS SWEARINGEN AIRCRAFT. MG COCKBAINE STATED THAT HE HAD CHECKED WITH LT. GENERAL ROGERS, CHIEF, SAAF, WHO VERIFIED THAT BRIG. W.J.J. VAN REASBURG, SAG DEFENSE ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, FULLY AUTHORIZED TO SIGN AND GUARANTEE END-USER STATEMENT. AS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SAAF IN WASHINGTON, HIS SIGNATURE WILL BE BINDING ON SAG AND SAAF.

2. MG COCKBAINE ASSURED BOTH OFFICERS THAT ALL SIX AIRCRAFT BEING USED IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH END-USER STATEMENT AND THAT IN ORDER TO PROVE THIS, HE ORDERED THESE AIRCRAFT TO BE FLOWN INTO SWARTKOP AIR BASE FOR INSPECTION BY EMB/DATT OFFICERS. ALL LOG BOOKS WERE ALSO TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AND PILOTS FOR AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONS. CONCERNING NEED FOR ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT, MG COCKBAINE STATED THAT CURRENT FIVE VIP AIRCRAFT (SIXTH IS VIP AMBULANCE AND ON STANDBY ONLY) ARE IN USE 100 PERCENT OF

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TIME AND THAT WITH CURRENT DEMAND FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION,

SAAF COULD ACTUALLY USE FOUR OR FIVE ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT, BUT HAVE FUNDS FOR ONLY ONE. HE ADDED THAT IN ADDITION TO FLYING HOURS, PLANES MUST SPEND GREAT DEAL OF TIME WAITING ON GROUND FOR VIP THEY ARE CARRYING. ADDITIONAL STRAIN IS PUT ON AIRCRAFT AND SCHEDULING DURING TIME GOVERNMENT IN CAPE TOWN BECAUSE SAAF MUST FERRY MINISTERS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DIGNITARIES BETWEEN CAPE TOWN AND PRETORIA.

3. ON FOLLOWING DAY, EMB/DATT OFFICERS VISITED 21ST VIP SQUADRON AT SWARTKOP AIR BASE AND TALKED WITH SQD COMMANDER, COL BOTHMA AND SEVERAL OTHER SQD OFFICERS. COL. BOTHMA VERIFIED ALL OF MG COCKBAINE'S STATEMENTS AND ADDED THAT 80 PERCENT OF ALL VIPS HIS SQDN TRANSPORTS ARE CIVILIAN WITH REMAINDER SADF GENERAL OFFICERS. TWO OF FIVE VIP AIRCRAFT HAVE CIVILIAN REGISTRATIONS AND ARE USED FOR FLYING TO BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE STATED THE SAG DID NOT WANT TO EMBARRASS ANY BLACK AFRICAN LEADER BY ASKING THEM TO RIDE IN SAAF MARKED AIRCRAFT AND THAT THESE LEADERS DID NOT WANT SAAF MARKED PLANE LANDING AT THEIR AIRPORTS. HE STATED THAT THESE TWO AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN EXTENSIVELY USED IN SAG'S DETENTE EFFORTS AND HAD IN PAST CARRIED PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA AND PRESIDENT BOKASSA OF CAR. HIS SQDN REGULARLY FLIES PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, STATE PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHERS BOTH OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA AND INTERNAL.

4. EMBOFF AND DATT OFFICER, WHO IS A PILOT, INSPECTED ALL SIX SWEARINGEN AIRCRAFT AND EXAMINED REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING OF LOG BOOKS. BOTH WERE COMPLETELY SATISFIED THAT AIRCRAFT BEING USED ONLY FOR VIP TRANSPORTATION. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT ALL AIRCRAFT CONFIGURED ONLY FOR VIP TRAVEL AND LOG BOOKS VERIFIED FLIGHTS AS BEING VIP TRANSPORT OR TRAINING FLIGHTS ONLY. AIRCRAFT HOURS FOR ALL SIX AIRCRAFT, ONE SET OF WHICH WAS CHECKED AGAINST LOG BOOK HOURS BY EMB/DATT OFFICERS, AS FOLLOWS:

#### FLYING HOURS FOR MERLINS

	MERLIN 10	MERLIN 11	MERLIN 12
JULY	14.40	52.00	
AUGUST	3.45	4.45	18.20
SEPTEMBER	53.55	20.10	48.30
OCTOBER	51.30	5.15	24.40
NOVEMBER	42.10		23.10

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DECEMBER	24.40		.45
JANUARY	30.15	1.30	25.20
FEBRUARY		.40	1.30

	MERLIN JMA	MERLIN JLZ	MERLIN 14 (AMB- ULANCE)
JULY	14.35		
AUGUST	48.00		
SEPTEMBER	27.05	36.20	

OCTOBER	5.00	55.45	
NOVEMBER	31.35	41.45	
DECEMBER	5.40	34.05	11.55
JANUARY		24.35	6.40
FEBRUARY	.30	10.40	

5. EMBASSY SATISFIED THAT ONE ADDITIONAL SWEARINGEN AIRCRAFT  
IS NEEDED FOR VIP TRANSPORTATION BY SAAF AND SEE NO TECHNICAL  
REASON FOR NOT PROVIDING IT. FROM POLITICAL STANDPOINT, WE  
BELIEVE DEPARTMENT BEST ABLE JUDGE WIDE RANGE OF CONSIDERATIONS  
INVOLVED IN DECISION.  
BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AVIATION REGULATIONS, AIRCRAFT SALES, IMPORT LICENSES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchant0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** PRE AND POST LICENSE CHECK-SWEARINGEN AVIATION  
**TAGS:** ESTC, SF, SAAF, (VAN REASBURG, W J J), (COCKBAINE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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